



IMPAC II Technical Coordinators

Date: June 19, 2003
Time: 1:30–3:00 p.m.
Location: Rockledge 6700B, Rm 1205
Chair: Chip Groh

Next Meeting: July 17, 2003, 1:30–3 p.m., Rockledge 6700B, Rm 1205

Action Items

1. (Tim Twomey) Refine schedule for July deployment; distribute to IMPAC II Technical Coordinator's listserv.
 2. (All) Email Tracy Soto or Steve Hughes any foreseeable problems with the proposed eRA password policy.
 3. (Tracy Soto) Bring a draft of the eRA password policy to the next IMPAC II Technical Coordinators meeting.
 4. (Chip Groh) Include discussion of eRA password policy on next month's agenda for IMPAC II Technical Coordinator's meeting.
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Architecture Update

Steve Hughes

The load balancer in the middle tier was deployed recently and has performed successfully for the last few weeks. Steve explained that the load balancer was installed to support the expected rush of NIH eRA Commons users and to ensure that the system is constantly available. He said that a load balancer can be compared to multiple checkout lines in a grocery store—instead of users standing in one “line” and creating backup, users occupy multiple “lines.” Multiple “lines” will avoid congestion and allow a greater number of users to access the system.

Data Quality for Address Line 5 and PI Degrees

Sara Silver

Sara presented “eRA Address and Degree Changes, July 2003 Release:”

http://era.nih.gov/docs/presentation_address_ict_6-19-03.ppt

She explained that changes to Address Line 5 and Degree Changes in IMPAC II are being implemented in support of Data Quality and Data Checking initiatives.

Address Line 5 Changes

Sara announced that Line 5 of the address fields, which holds city, state and zip code information, will be retired (see *Slide #2*). The retirement of Line 5 is a first step in a much larger goal to identify addresses by components in the eRA system.

For July, the information contained in Line 5 will be parsed into separate city, state, and zip code fields. Users no longer will be able to enter information into Line 5 and will have to check the edit-addresses screen carefully to ensure that city, state, and zip code information have been transferred to the individual fields. There also will be a button on the screen that will transfer the city, state, and zip code automatically to the individual fields should users find that the information is still located in Line 5.

The retirement of Line 5 and the creation of separate fields for city, state, and zip code information will require—

- ❑ Conversion of existing data (see *Slide #4*).
- ❑ Modification to address screens (see *Slide #5*).
- ❑ Modification to miscellaneous documents, including reports, mailers, summary statements, etc., where address is displayed (see *Slide #7*).
- ❑ Creation of new tables in IRDB and OTLP (see *Slides #8-9*).

Principal Investigator (PI) Degree Changes

There will be three major changes to PI degrees:

- ❑ *Degree Codes and Categories*—(see *Slides #11-17*). There will be a new list of degree codes (see *Slide #13*) and new categories and subcategories of degrees (see *Slides #14*). These changes will ensure better tracking and reporting of degree codes in IMPAC II.
- ❑ *“Earned degree” information*—(see *Slides #18-19*). Existing null data for the *degree_status_code* will be converted to “Yes” or “No” (see *Slide #19*). This change will remedy problems with interpreting the *degree_status_code* (see *slide #18*).
- ❑ *Duplicate degree records*—(see *Slides #20-22*). There will be changes to remove and delete duplicate records from IMPAC II. Specifically, there will be a warning message in the application that alerts users to the creation of a duplicate degree. All degree records that are obvious duplicates will be collapsed. Individuals with more than one of a specific type of degree will store that degree once for each occurrence. There will be new database tables (see *Slide #21*) and changes to current database tables (see *Slide #22*) to implement these changes.

User Resource Limits

Brad Sachar

Brad presented “NIH eRA Database Resource Plan: Doing More with Less.”

http://era.nih.gov/docs/techrep_database_resource_plan.ppt

He explained that the Operations Branch has proposed a resource plan and new profile limits to ensure that the eRA system is highly available, secure, and responsive (see *Slide #3*). The goals of the plan are to—

- ❑ Identify problem areas for tuning
- ❑ Prevent runaway processes from affecting users
- ❑ Help move long-running jobs to off hours

To accomplish these goals, Operations proposes the following changes (see *Slide #5*)—

- ❑ Allow resource plan to set priorities for processing if there is contention for CPU (online Commons users 50%, online IMPAC II users 35%, link and bridge accounts 10%, other users 5%).
- ❑ Reduce limits for CPU per statement (from thirteen to three minutes)
- ❑ Reduce idle time from four to two hours
- ❑ Set limit on disk reads per statement (user limit 8MB, link limit 24 Mb).

The group asked if the Operations Team has considered more time flexibility for user limits, processing jobs, etc. during peak time frames. For instance, NIH eRA Commons may need the CPU more than IMPAC II at a given point in time. Brad said that he had not previously considered this issue; however, he intends to investigate it further.

Brad explained that the new profile limits and resource plans will be implemented in Test and Stage after the July acceptance testing is completed on July 21. Testers will use the resource plan during regression testing (see *Slide #6*).

All IC link accounts will be tested in a new database called IMPSTG. ICs will tune their extension system interface under these new profile limits and resource plans to determine whether the guidelines are too restrictive (see *Slide #6*).

Finally, Brad emphasized that the proposed resource plan is recommended as the best practice for enterprise systems. The resource plan will (see *Slide #7*)—

- ❑ Increase consistency and performance for all users and applications
- ❑ Identify problem areas in the applications, extension systems, bridges, or batch jobs
- ❑ Save money by supporting more load without adding significant new technical infrastructure

July Deployment Update

Tim Twomey

The deployment was originally scheduled for July 24; however, it has now been moved to August 1. Several new pilots will be released, including the Program Module, Web Query Tool, the Grants Management and Program Official customizable checklists, and the Committee Management Web version.

Tim said that the deployment will most likely begin late Friday and end on Saturday. He will have a more specific schedule sometime after Wednesday, June 25. He will mail this schedule to the IMPAC II Technical Coordinators listserv.

Action: (Tim Twomey) Refine schedule for July deployment; distribute to IMPAC II Technical Coordinator's listserv.

Password Policy for eRA

Tracy Soto

An eRA password policy will be implemented in October. This policy is intended to certify eRA as a secure system.

The policy will enforce more stringent requirements for passwords. Special characters, numbers, and upper- and lowercase characters will be required. Passwords will expire every six months and users will be granted a ten-day grace period to log in and change their passwords. The eRA project will change all J2EE and client-server applications so that users can change their passwords, reset, and login again.

Extension systems in regard to passwords were discussed. Tracy explained that Oracle errors may appear but that IC Technical Coordinators should be able to handle these by building in a code and giving appropriate notification to users. If passwords expire in IC extension systems, users will have to log into an IMPAC II application and change their passwords there.

The group asked Tracy how the policy will handle link, ECB, and IRDB accounts. Tracey said that these issues have not been considered, but need to be resolved. Steve encouraged the group to email Tracy or himself with any concerns or exceptions. Tracy is responsible for drafting the policy and would like to consider any foreseeable problems. She agreed to bring a draft of the policy to the next IMPAC II Technical Coordinators meeting. She will update the group on any developments concerning the eRA password policy.

Action: (All) Email Tracy Soto or Steve Hughes any foreseeable problems with the proposed eRA Password Policy.

Action: (Tracy Soto) Bring a draft of the eRA password policy to the next IMPAC II Technical Coordinators meeting.

Action: (Chip Groh) Include discussion of eRA password policy on next month's agenda for IMPAC II Technical Coordinator's meeting.